



P-Thomas, B. Brooks  
McCoy, Alfred W.  
SOC 4.01.2 The Politics  
New York Evanston London San Francisco  
OF Heroin  
(orig under Thomas)

B. Brooks Thomas  
Vice President &  
General Counsel

10 East 53d Street, New York, New York 10022

August 4, 1972

Lawrence R. Houston, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Houston:

Thank you for your letter of July 28, 1972 together with its enclosures.

Together with the author, we have now completed a thorough review of the comments made in your letter and in the enclosures, checking them against Mr. McCoy's manuscript and notes. Based upon this careful review, it is our sincere opinion that Mr. McCoy's scholarship remains unshaken and we do not see any reason for making any changes in the text. I am appending hereto a list of the points made in your memorandum to us, together with an explanation of our reasons for believing in each case that no change is either necessary or appropriate.

As you correctly point out in your letter, Mr. McCoy's theme is that the CIA's role in the heroin traffic has been principally inadvertent and a consequence of other tactics which it has pursued. I believe that this theme is amply documented throughout the book and that it constitutes an eminently reasonable assessment of the effect of the Agency's activities in this area. We regret, as you do, the fact that some writers have mis-characterized the allegations which Mr. McCoy makes in the book. With this fact in mind, we believe that the best service we can render the author, the CIA and the general public is to publish the book as expeditiously as possible, and that is what we intend to do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your courtesy to us and for honoring the conditions which we imposed when we sent you the manuscript.

Sincerely,

BBT:jc